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CLAIMS

1. A method for separating a first quantity of milk drawn
from a milking animal in an automatic milking machine
from a second quantity of milk drawn from a milking

5   animal in said milking machine comprising the steps of:
- milking an animal using said automatic milking machine,
- measuring a first indicator of mastitis,
- automatically collecting a small representative amount
of said first quantity of milk during said milking,

10   - analysing at least a part of said small representative
amount of milk using an on-line cell counter for counting
the number of cells in said first quantity of milk,
- operating a valve depending on the counted number of
cells so that if the counted number of cells are below a

15   first threshold said first quantity of milk is collected
in a first container and if said counted number of cells
are equal to or above said first threshold said first
quantity of milk are directed to a drain or a second
container, and wherein

20   - said analysing of at least a part of said
representative amount of milk, and said operation of said
valve, are performed only if said first indicator of
mastitis is above a second threshold.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of

25   operating a valve further comprises the step of
- collecting said first quantity of milk in a third
container if the counted number of cells are above a
third threshold but below said first threshold and
- collect said first quantity of milk in said first

30   container if said counted number of cells are below said
third threshold, thereby collecting milk of a first
superior quality in said first container, milk of a
second quality in said third container and milk of a

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third quality is directed to said drain or collected in
said second container.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said first
indicator of mastitis is one indicator, or a selection of
multiple indicators, selected from a group of indicators
comprising: the conductivity of said first quantity of
milk, the NAgase value of said first quantity of milk,
the Urea value of said first quantity of milk, the
temperature of said first quantity of milk, the milk flow
from said milking animal or the milk quantity from a teat
of said milking animal.

4. The method according to any of the claims above, wherein
said small representative amount of milk is collected
from a milk measuring device.

5. The method according to any of the claims above, wherein
said first quantity of milk drawn from one milking animal
is collected in an end unit for the duration of
performing the somatic cell count.

6. The method according to any of the claims above, wherein
said first quantity of milk is collected from a first
teat of a milking animal and said second quantity of milk
is collected from a second teat of said milking animal.

7. The method according to any of the claims above, wherein
said first quantity of milk is collected from a first
milking animal and said second quantity of milk is
collected from a second milking animal.

8. An automatic milking machine comprising means for
separating a first quantity of milk drawn from a milking
animal in said automatic milking machine from a second
quantity of milk drawn from a milking animal in said
milking machine characterised in,

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- a collecting device for collecting a small
representative amount of said first quantity of milk
during said milking,

- a measurement device for measuring a first indicator of
mastitis,

- an on-line cell counter for analysing at least a part
of said small representative amount of milk for counting
the number of cells in said first quantity of milk,

- at least a first valve operable to direct said first
quantity of milk depending on the counted number of
cells, so that if the counted number of cells are below a
first threshold said first quantity of milk is collected
in a first container and if said counted number of cells
are equal to or above said threshold said first quantity
of milk are directed to a drain or a second container,
and

- wherein said on-line cell counter is arranged to
analyse said first quantity of milk only if said first
indicator of mastitis is above a second threshold.

9. The automatic milking machine according to claim 8,
wherein said valve is further operable to direct said
first quantity of milk so as to:

- collect said first quantity of milk in a third
container if the counted number of cells are above a
third threshold but below said first threshold and

- collect said first quantity of milk in said first
container if said counted number of cells are below said
third threshold, thereby collecting milk of a first
superior quality in said first container, milk of a
second quality in said third container and milk of a
third quality is directed to said drain or collected in
said second container.

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10. The automatic milking machine according to claim 8 or 9, wherein said measurement device for measuring a first indicator of mastitis is arranged to measure one indicator, or a selection of multiple indicators, selected from a group of indicators comprising: the conductivity of said first quantity of milk, the NAgase value of said first quantity of milk, the Urea value of said first quantity of milk, the temperature of said first quantity of milk, the milk flow from said milking animal or the milk quantity from a teat of said milking animal.

11. The automatic milking machine according to claim 8 - 10, wherein said small representative amount of milk is collected from a milk measuring device.

12. The automatic milking machine according to claim 8 - 11, wherein said first quantity of milk is collected from a first teat of a milking animal and said second quantity of milk is collected from a second teat of said milking animal.

13. The automatic milking machine according to claim 8 - 12, wherein said first quantity of milk is collected from a first milking animal and said second quantity of milk is collected from a second milking animal.

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